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BAGGINGS USED FOR COVERING AMERICAN COTTON BALES

By J. W. Wright,
Senior Agricultural Economist

A Preliminary Report

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June 1935
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BAGGINGS USED FOR COVERING AMERICAN COTTON BALES

By J. W. Wright, Senior Agricultural Economist,
Division of Cotton Marketing ^{1/}

CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction	1
Sources and adequacy of data	2
Types of bagging used.	2
Experiences of growers and ginners with sisal baggings	5
Cost to growers for bale coverings	11
Summary	13

INTRODUCTION

Information regarding the baggings used for wrapping bales of cotton is of interest to growers of American cotton because it is an item of cost in preparing their product for market. Such information is of interest to spinners and marketing agencies from the standpoints of tare allowances and of protection afforded the cotton. Spinners are particularly interested in the types of bagging used from the standpoint of problems arising in connection with manufacturing processes.

Data on this subject have been collected from time to time, the most recent official figures available being those relating to the wrapping of bales from the crop of 1930. ^{2/} The data here presented have been assembled for the purpose of bringing the published figures up to date and for the further purpose of providing basic information relative to certain marketing problems which have accompanied the recent introduction and use of bagging manufactured wholly or in part from sisal and other hard fibers.

The fact that both domestic and foreign spinners of American cotton were reported to have serious objections to receiving cotton covered with the sisal baggings made some cotton buyers reluctant to purchase bales covered with these baggings. In many instances buyers accepted such bales only on condition that deductions sufficient to pay the cost of re-covering with

^{1/} The data upon which this report is based were collected as a Civil Works Administration project under the supervision of the field offices of the Division.

^{2/} Wright, J. W., and Cheatham, R. J., American Cotton Tare Practices and Problems. U.S. Department of Agriculture. Preliminary Report. 1933. (Mimeographed.)

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other types of bagging would be made in connection with payment for the cotton. As a result of this situation requests were made of the U. S. Department of Agriculture for information relative to the justification for these deductions and, incidentally, relative to the extent of use of these types of bagging and the experience of growers and ginners in connection with them.

The resulting investigation of baggings involved two separate studies. This report has to do with the extent of use of the various types of bagging and the experience of ginners in connection therewith. The results of the study of the influence of type of bagging used on spinning results are reported elsewhere. ^{3/}

SOURCES AND ADEQUACY OF DATA

Information concerning types of bagging used for covering American cotton bales ginned from the crop of 1933, as well as information concerning the experience of ginners and growers in the use of these baggings, was obtained through interviews with approximately 37 percent of the owners or operators of active ginning establishments in the United States during the 1933-34 ginning season. These gins were so selected as to give a cross-section of conditions in each cotton-producing county. The size of the sample varied considerably as between States. The percentage of gins included in the sample in each State is shown in table 1.

Data concerning the re-covering with other types of bagging of bales originally covered with sisal baggings were obtained through visits to all compresses receiving cotton from areas in which sisal baggings were used. Since practically all re-covering of bales is done at compresses, the data on this phase of the subject constitute an almost complete census rather than a selected sample.

TYPES OF BAGGING USED

Under the present procedure in marketing American cotton some of the major considerations in the choice of bagging for covering the bales are (1) low cost and (2) weight conforming to the maximum tare allowance. Under existing conditions fabrics made from the coarse fibers meet these particular requirements to a greater extent than do other available materials. For this reason baggings made from jute have long constituted the principal covering materials for American cotton bales.

The major portion of the cotton crop of 1933 was covered with open-weave baggings made from new and re-woven jute cuttings. Baggings of these types constituted approximately 61 percent of all baggings used (table 2). Sugar-bag cloth, which is a jute product but made from long jute fiber and

^{3/} Cheatham, R. J., and Brown, J. J., Effect of Certain Bale Covers on the Spinning Behavior of Cotton. U. S. Department of Agriculture. Preliminary Report, 1934. (Mimeographed.)

Table 1. - Total active gins in the United States and gins included in survey, by States, season 1933-34.

State	Total active gins 1/	Gins included in survey	
	Number	Number	Percent of total
Alabama.....	1,274	377	29.59
Arizona.....	39	36	92.31
Arkansas.....	1,194	342	28.64
California.....	60	43	71.67
Florida.....	50	44	88.00
Georgia.....	1,486	486	32.71
Louisiana.....	677	283	41.80
Mississippi.....	1,347	417	30.96
Missouri.....	142	130	91.55
New Mexico.....	45	45	100.00
North Carolina.....	1,087	367	33.76
Oklahoma.....	869	488	56.16
South Carolina.....	1,264	317	25.08
Tennessee.....	433	337	77.83
Texas.....	3,455	1,261	36.50
Virginia.....	109	86	78.90
All other.....	12	5	41.67
United States.....	13,543	5,064	37.39

1/ As reported by the Bureau of the Census.

closely woven, was second in importance and was used for covering about 26 percent of the bales. Open-weave sisal, mixed sisal and jute, and closely woven sisal baggings, although the subject of much comment in the cotton industry during that season, were, by comparison, relatively unimportant, as they were used to cover 0.67, 3.57, and 0.19 percent, respectively, of the total bales ginned. Second-hand and miscellaneous types of bagging accounted for 7.51 percent of all bagging used. Negligible quantities of baggings made of cotton, and cotton and jute mixed, were used.

A comparison by States of the data in table 2 indicates that certain types of bagging are used more extensively in some regions than in others. New and re-woven jute baggings were used for covering more than 90 percent of the bales produced in the States of Arkansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma. In California the entire crop was covered with bagging of this type. Other States in which these baggings were used to a major extent are Arizona, Mississippi, and Tennessee. In each of the latter group of States more than 75 percent of all bales were covered with new and re-woven jute baggings.

Sugar-bag cloth was used most extensively in the States of Louisiana, Texas, New Mexico, North Carolina, Alabama, and Virginia, but in only the two States last named was it used to cover more than 50 percent of the bales.

Second-hand and miscellaneous baggings were relatively unimportant except in Florida, South Carolina, Alabama, and Tennessee. Almost 67 percent of the Florida crop was covered with such baggings.

The baggings made wholly or in part of sisal fiber were distributed over practically all of the cotton-producing States but their actual use as bale coverings during the season 1933-34 was relatively unimportant except in South Carolina, where almost 18 percent of the entire crop was covered with these baggings.

In general, new and re-woven jute baggings were most used as coverings for cotton bales in the central and western parts of the Cotton Belt. States in the southeastern and central parts were the principal users of sugar-bag cloth. The use of second-hand and miscellaneous types of bagging was confined largely to the Southeast.

Table 2. - Percentage distribution of specified types of bagging used for covering American cotton bales, 1/ by States, season 1933-34

State	Percentage of bales covered with specified types of bagging						
	New and re-woven jute	Sugar-bag cloth	Second-hand and miscellaneous 2/	Closely woven sisal	Open-weave sisal	Mixed sisal and jute	Cotton and cotton and jute mixed
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Alabama.....	11.93	55.31	29.92	0.01	1.28	1.55	-
Arizona.....	84.06	15.24	.70	-	-	-	-
Arkansas.....	94.80	2.73	.26	-	.03	2.18	-
California.....	100.00	-	-	-	-	-	-
Florida.....	3.25	28.00	66.63	.42	.54	1.16	-
Georgia.....	71.43	11.93	7.65	.16	2.85	5.98	-
Louisiana.....	57.31	42.06	-	-	.19	.01	0.43
Mississippi.....	85.71	8.39	.97	-	.32	4.61	-
Missouri.....	93.25	.87	5.67	-	-	.21	-
New Mexico.....	55.08	44.92	-	-	-	-	-
North Carolina..	55.85	36.06	4.74	-	1.34	.62	1.39
Oklahoma.....	91.15	1.18	1.63	.01	.02	5.22	.79
South Carolina..	37.02	12.39	32.82	-	1.86	15.91	-
Tennessee.....	77.73	3.88	14.91	-	.27	3.21	-
Texas.....	46.39	46.15	4.06	.53	.25	2.27	.35
Virginia.....	14.91	84.60	-	-	.49	-	-
All other.....	100.00	-	-	-	-	-	-
United States	61.33	26.45	7.51	0.19	0.67	3.57	0.28

Estimates based on data obtained through a survey of cotton gins.

1/ Square bales only.

2/ Includes rerolled or repaired burlap, and baggings made from fertilizer sacks, hop sacks, and cocoa bags.

The estimated number of patterns of each type of bagging used for covering the crop of 1933 is given by States in table 3 and the extent to which each type of bagging was used in cotton-producing counties is indicated by figures 2 to 8, inclusive. Figure 1 indicates the relative extent to which baggings of all types is used in various cotton-producing areas of the United States.

A comparison of the data for the season 1933-34 with similar data for previous years shows a continuation of the slightly downward trend in the use of new and re-woven jute baggings (table 4). However the data for this season provide an exception to the general tendency toward increased use of sugar-bag cloth shown by data for the previous 20-year period. On the other hand the data for this season indicated also a slight reversal from the previous declining use of second-hand, rerolled, or repaired baggings. The increased use of second-hand baggings during the season 1933-34 may be explained, at least in part, by the effort made to reduce the cost of covering bales when cotton prices were relatively low. The use of second-hand baggings also showed a marked tendency to increase when cotton prices were low in 1920-21.

EXPERIENCES OF GROWERS AND GINNERS WITH SISAL BAGGINGS

The introduction of baggings made wholly or in part of sisal has been accompanied by considerable controversy in the cotton industry. In many instances the reported objection to these types of baggings on the part of domestic and foreign spinners resulted in the acceptance of bales carrying sisal coverings by buyers in producers' local markets only at substantial discounts. The imposed deductions varied in different sections from 75 cents to \$2.00 per bale. Ostensibly the deductions were designed to cover the cost of stripping the bales and applying other bagging, as well as to cover incidental handling charges.

Data are not available showing either the total number of bales for which deductions were made by buyers because the bales were covered with sisal bagging or the aggregate amount of such deductions. In those States where deductions were reported, the sample of gins included in the survey varied from 25 percent of all gins in South Carolina to 88 percent in Florida. Table 5 indicates the extent to which growers patronizing these gins sustained losses on bales covered with various types of sisal bagging, the average deduction per bale, and the aggregate amount of the deductions. Deductions from payments to growers were made on 3,159 bales at an average of \$1.04 per bale.

In many instances the cotton was purchased from the growers by the ginner who had wrapped the bales. In such instances the ginner-buyers themselves sustained any deductions for sisal coverings when they in turn sold the cotton. For the gins included in this study, the average deduction sustained by ginner-buyers was 98 cents per bale on a total of 2,925 bales (table 6).

Table 3. - Estimated number of patterns¹ of bagging of specified types used for covering American cotton bales, ² by States, season 1933-34

State	New and re-woven jute	Sugar-bag cloth	Second-hand and miscellaneous	Closely woven sisal	Open-weave sisal	Mixed sisal and jute	Cotton and jute mixed	Total all types
	Patterns	Patterns	Patterns	Patterns	Patterns	Patterns	Patterns	Patterns
Alabama.....	113,463	526,039	284,561	95	12,174	14,742	-	951,074
Arizona.....	78,120	14,163	651	-	-	-	-	92,934
Arkansas.....	960,385	27,657	2,634	-	304	22,085	-	1,013,065
California.....	202,238	-	-	-	-	-	-	202,238
Florida.....	785	6,758	16,081	101	130	280	-	24,135
Georgia.....	781,005	130,441	83,644	1,749	31,162	65,384	-	1,093,385
Louisiana.....	268,767	197,249	-	-	891	47	2,016	468,970
Mississippi.....	970,367	94,938	10,982	-	3,623	52,192	-	1,132,152
Missouri.....	221,867	2,070	13,490	-	-	500	-	237,927
New Mexico.....	47,435	38,686	32,730	-	9,253	4,281	-	86,121
North Carolina.....	335,648	243,996	19,431	-	238	62,228	9,598	690,506
Oklahoma.....	1,086,600	14,067	19,431	119	13,541	115,829	9,418	1,192,101
South Carolina.....	269,515	90,202	238,938	-	1,158	13,767	-	728,025
Tennessee.....	333,369	16,641	63,946	-	9,927	90,134	-	428,881
Texas.....	1,841,981	1,832,452	161,208	21,044	-	-	13,897	3,970,643
Virginia.....	5,131	29,113	-	-	169	-	-	34,413
All other.....	13,753	-	-	-	-	-	-	13,753
United States	7,580,429	3,269,522	928,296	23,108	82,570	441,469	34,929	12,360,323

Based on data obtained through a survey of cotton gins and on running bales produced, as reported by the Bureau of the Census.

¹ A pattern consists of two strips of bagging, each about 3 yards in length, which are used for covering a bale of cotton at the gin.

² Square bales only.

Table 4. - Estimated use of various types of bagging for covering American cotton bales, ¹ specified years 1909-1933

Type of bagging	1909 to 1912	1919	1920	1924	1926	1927	1928	1930	1933
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
New and re-woven jute.....	85.00	78.47	61.52	69.12	71.47	68.50	69.10	62.54	61.33
Sugar-bag cloth.....	2.00	14.31	10.00	17.65	22.70	26.30	25.20	31.61	26.45
Second-hand and miscellaneous.....	13.00	7.22	28.48	13.23	5.83	5.20	5.70	5.85	7.51
Closely woven sisal.....	$\frac{g}{g}$	$\frac{g}{g}$	$\frac{g}{g}$	$\frac{g}{g}$	$\frac{g}{g}$	$\frac{g}{g}$	$\frac{g}{g}$	$\frac{g}{g}$.19
Open-weave sisal.....	$\frac{g}{g}$	$\frac{g}{g}$	$\frac{g}{g}$	$\frac{g}{g}$	$\frac{g}{g}$	$\frac{g}{g}$	$\frac{g}{g}$	$\frac{g}{g}$.67
Mixed sisal and jute.....	$\frac{g}{g}$	$\frac{g}{g}$	$\frac{g}{g}$	$\frac{g}{g}$	$\frac{g}{g}$	$\frac{g}{g}$	$\frac{g}{g}$	$\frac{g}{g}$	3.57
Cotton and cotton and jute mixed.....	$\frac{g}{g}$	$\frac{g}{g}$	$\frac{g}{g}$	$\frac{g}{g}$	$\frac{g}{g}$	$\frac{g}{g}$	$\frac{g}{g}$	$\frac{g}{g}$.23
Total.....	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

¹ Square bales only.

² Data are from Tariff Information Surveys, Jute Cloths, 1922, p. 21.

³ Data are from Investigations of American Cotton Trade, (Unpublished report) U. S. Dept. of Agr.

⁴ Bureau of Agricultural Economics, 1925, p. 7.

⁵ Data compiled from questionnaire sent out September 1927.

⁶ Data compiled from questionnaire sent out March 1929.

⁷ Data obtained by a survey of gins throughout the cotton-growing States during the season 1930-31.

⁸ Data obtained by a survey of gins throughout the cotton-growing States during the season 1933-34.

⁹ No data available but if used at all was included under rerolled and miscellaneous.

Table 5. - Estimated extent to which growers were penalized for bales covered with specified types of sisal bagging, by States, season 1933-34

State	Open-weave sisal				Mixed sisal and jute				Closely woven sisal				All types of sisal			
	Bales penal- ized	Average penalty per bale	Total penal- ties	Dollars	Bales penal- ized	Average penalty per bale	Total penal- ties	Dollars	Bales penal- ized	Average penalty per bale	Total penal- ties	Dollars	Bales penal- ized	Average penalty per bale	Total penal- ties	Dollars
Alabama.....	433	0.79	342.07		-	-	-		-	-	-		433	0.79	342.07	
Arkansas.....	172	1.00	172.00		3,652	1.00	3,652.00		-	-	-		3,824	1.00	3,824.00	
Florida.....	24	.75	18.00		-	-	-		-	-	-		24	.75	18.00	
Georgia.....	1,764	1.31	2,310.84		152	.95	144.40		-	-	-		1,916	1.28	2,455.24	
Louisiana.....	714	.75	535.50		-	-	-		-	-	-		714	.75	535.50	
Mississippi.....	174	1.06	184.44		758	1.04	788.32		-	-	-		932	1.04	972.76	
North Carolina.....	-	-	-		147	1.56	229.32		-	-	-		147	1.56	229.32	
South Carolina.....	-	-	-		860	1.39	1,195.40		-	-	-		860	1.39	1,195.40	
Texas.....	386	.87	335.82		41	1.80	73.80		689	.79	544.31		1,116	.85	953.93	
Total.....	3,667	1.06	3,898.67		5,610	1.08	6,083.24		689	.79	544.31		9,966	1.06	10,526.22	

Data obtained through a survey of cotton gins.

Table 6. - Estimated extent to which ginner-buyers were penalized for bales covered with specified types of sisal baggings, by States, season 1933-34

State	Open-weave sisal				Mixed sisal and jute				All types of sisal			
	Bales penal- ized	Average penalty per bale	Total penal- ties	Dollars	Bales penal- ized	Average penalty per bale	Total penal- ties	Dollars	Bales penal- ized	Average penalty per bale	Total penal- ties	Dollars
Alabama.....	167	0.96	160.32		-	-	-		167	0.96	160.32	
Arkansas.....	24	1.00	24.00		776	1.00	776.00		800	1.00	800.00	
Florida.....	47	.93	43.71		-	-	-		47	.93	43.71	
Georgia.....	770	.95	731.50		4,318	1.00	4,318.00		5,038	.99	5,049.50	
Mississippi.....	-	-	-		81	1.00	81.00		81	1.00	81.00	
Missouri.....	-	-	-		245	1.04	254.80		245	1.04	254.80	
Tennessee.....	121	1.07	129.47		23	1.00	23.00		144	1.06	152.47	
Texas.....	816	.89	726.24		700	.95	665.00		1,516	.92	1,391.24	
Total.....	1,945	.93	1,815.24		6,143	1.00	6,117.80		8,083	.98	7,933.04	

Data obtained through a survey of cotton gins.

Table 7.- Extent to which bales covered with specified types of bagging were re-covered at compresses, by States, season 1933-34

State	Open-weave sisal				Mixed sisal and hite				Closely woven sisal				Fertilizer sacks				Total			
	Bales	re-	covered	at	Bales	re-	covered	at	Bales	re-	covered	at	Bales	re-	covered	at	Bales	re-	covered	at
Alabama	396	0.72	286.25	72	1,011	208.75	75	1,011	208.75	75	1,011	208.75	75	1,011	208.75	75	1,011	208.75	75	1,011
Arizona	25	.50	12.50	50	100	100.00	100	100	100.00	100	100	100.00	100	100	100.00	100	100	100.00	100	100
California	100	1.00	100.00	100	100	100.00	100	100	100.00	100	100	100.00	100	100	100.00	100	100	100.00	100	100
Florida	300	.75	225.00	75	829.19	270	1.37	568.66	14	1.18	16.50	157	1.00	157.00	157	1.00	157.00	157	1.00	157.00
Georgia	1,065	.78	829.19	78	1,065	829.19	78	1,065	829.19	78	1,065	829.19	78	1,065	829.19	78	1,065	829.19	78	1,065
Louisiana	14	1.18	16.50	157	1.00	157.00	157	1.00	157.00	157	1.00	157.00	157	1.00	157.00	157	1.00	157.00	157	1.00
Mississippi	800	.50	400.00	50	75	7.50	75	75	7.50	75	75	7.50	75	75	7.50	75	75	7.50	75	75
North Carolina	10	1.00	10.00	10	1.00	10.00	10	1.00	10.00	10	1.00	10.00	10	1.00	10.00	10	1.00	10.00	10	1.00
Oklahoma	14	.75	10.50	75	1.00	10.00	10	1.00	10.00	10	1.00	10.00	10	1.00	10.00	10	1.00	10.00	10	1.00
South Carolina	6	1.00	6.00	100	1.00	100.00	100	1.00	100.00	100	1.00	100.00	100	1.00	100.00	100	1.00	100.00	100	1.00
Tennessee	281	.87	244.37	87	1,976.93	273	.43	118.50	25	1.00	25.00	25	1.00	25.00	25	1.00	25.00	25	1.00	25.00
Texas	4,390	.81	3,556.70	81	3,556.70	2,937	.96	2,915.91	25	1.00	25.00	25	1.00	25.00	25	1.00	25.00	25	1.00	25.00
United States	4,390	.81	3,556.70	81	3,556.70	2,937	.96	2,915.91	25	1.00	25.00	25	1.00	25.00	25	1.00	25.00	25	1.00	25.00

Data obtained through a survey of cotton compresses.

In many instances cotton bales covered with sisal bagging were re-covered with other types of bagging before the cotton was exported or shipped to domestic mills. In practically all instances this re-covering of bales was done at compresses. The extent to which bales covered with various types of bagging were re-covered during the season 1933-34 is indicated by the data contained in table 7. A total of 7,818 bales were re-covered by all compresses operating in territories where sisal baggings had been distributed. The average charge per bale for re-covering was 86 cents.

Although the sisal baggings were actually used only to a very limited extent during the season 1933-34, there was a relatively extensive sale and distribution of these types of bagging early in that season. When buyers began to discount bales covered with baggings of these types, ginners found it necessary to discontinue their use. This was followed by the cancellation of unfilled orders and, in many instances, by the return of unused stocks of bagging to the distributors.

COST TO GROWERS FOR BALE COVERINGS

Costs to growers in various States for bagging and ties during the season 1933-34, with comparisons for the seasons 1929-30 and 1930-31, are shown in table 8. These data indicate that very material reductions had been

Table 8 - Estimated average cost per bale to growers for bagging and ties, by States, seasons 1929-30, 1930-31 and 1933-34

State	1933-34	1930-31	1929-30
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Alabama	0.72	1.12	1.35
Arizona	1.09	2.00	2.12
Arkansas	1.14	1.45	1.70
California	1.14	2.00	2.25
Florida	.71	1.33	1.75
Georgia	.91	1.14	1.25
Louisiana	1.18	1.54	1.81
Mississippi	1.13	1.64	1.82
Missouri	1.10	1.43	1.75
New Mexico	1.06	1.80	1.87
North Carolina	.77	1.02	1.12
Oklahoma	1.00	1.45	1.46
South Carolina	.70	1.02	1.25
Tennessee	1.01	1.45	1.66
Texas	1.06	1.39	1.57
Virginia	.73	1/	1/
All other	1.04	1/	1/
United States	1.02	1.35	1.55

Estimates based on data obtained through surveys of cotton gins.

1/ No data available.

made in the charges to growers in all of the States. The average cost of bagging and ties for the United States was \$1.02 per bale in 1933-34 as compared with \$1.55 for the season 1929-30 and \$1.35 for the season 1930-31. A comparison of the costs of bagging and ties for individual States and of data relating to the types of bagging used in these States, as shown in table 2, indicates that costs were materially lower in those States where second-hand materials are more generally used than in States using larger proportions of the new materials.

The data relative to charges to growers for bagging and ties (table 8) relate to those gins at which the charge for bagging and ties is assessed separately from the ginning charge. In some localities the charge made for ginning includes the cost of bagging and ties. The manner in which such charges are assessed in the various States is indicated in table 9. In eight states - Alabama, Arizona, California, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, New Mexico, and Oklahoma - the charge for bagging and ties is assessed separately in all cases. For other cotton-producing States there is consider-

Table 9. - Extent to which various methods of assessing charges for bagging and ties and for ginning were employed, by States, season 1933-34.

State	Separate charge for bagging and ties	Charge for bagging and ties included in a			
		flat rate per bale for ginning	rate per hundred-weight of seed cotton	ginning toll of seed cotton	
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	
Alabama.....	100.0	-	-	-	
Arizona.....	100.0	-	-	-	
Arkansas.....	84.4	15.6	-	-	
California.....	100.0	-	-	-	
Florida.....	18.8	81.2	-	-	
Georgia.....	81.0	12.2	-	6.8	
Louisiana.....	100.0	-	-	-	
Mississippi.....	100.0	-	-	-	
Missouri.....	100.0	-	-	-	
New Mexico.....	100.0	-	-	-	
North Carolina.....	26.5	60.0	13.5	-	
Oklahoma.....	100.0	-	-	-	
South Carolina.....	42.4	57.6	-	-	
Tennessee.....	72.6	27.4	-	-	
Texas.....	99.1	0.9	-	-	
Virginia.....	44.9	53.1	-	2.0	
All other.....	100.0	-	-	-	
Total.....	88.0	10.6	0.8	0.6	

Data obtained through a survey of cotton gins.

Table 10. - Average weight of American cotton bales, 1/ by States, 1929-30 to 1933-34

State	1933-34	1932-33	1931-32	1930-31	1929-30	5-year average
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
Alabama.....	511.3	508.1	512.5	509.8	513.0	510.9
Arizona.....	517.2	515.3	518.7	516.2	511.3	515.7
Arkansas.....	517.3	516.8	519.2	506.3	513.9	514.7
California.....	515.1	520.3	515.5	514.5	508.7	514.9
Florida.....	502.6 2/	3/	3/	3/	3/	
Georgia.....	505.1	495.7	496.6	498.5	501.0	500.0
Louisiana.....	507.9	509.2	517.3	506.9	507.0	508.9
Mississippi.....	512.0	508.0	511.1	502.0	510.5	508.9
Missouri.....	513.9	510.2	515.4	492.2	497.8	505.9
New Mexico.....	522.3	517.7	527.3	513.7	512.5	517.9
North Carolina.....	497.5	467.6	490.3	483.9	487.1	489.3
Oklahoma.....	512.1	505.5	510.2	493.2	507.6	506.7
South Carolina.....	504.9	495.8	497.3	492.9	498.2	497.8
Tennessee.....	518.3	513.8	514.3	507.4	511.4	513.0
Texas.....	525.1	524.0	525.0	519.7	518.2	523.0
Virginia.....	499.7 2/	3/	3/	3/	3/	
All other.....	501.4	498.4	499.7	492.4	488.0	495.9
United States.....	515.1	511.7	514.0	506.4	509.5	510.8

As reported by the Bureau of the Census.

- 1/ Square bales only.
2/ Preliminary figure.
3/ No data available.

able variation in the methods of assessing the charge for covering bales, the charge at many gins being included with the charge for ginning. In most of the southeastern States the ginning charge is a flat rate per bale, which includes the bagging and ties for covering the bale. In those States where ginning and wrapping charges are to a considerable extent assessed at a flat rate per bale, the average weight of bales is materially less than in other States (table 10).

SUMMARY

For the season 1933-34 approximately 61 percent of all American cotton bales were covered with new and re-woven jute baggings, about 26 percent with sugar-bag cloth, less than 8 percent with second-hand baggings, less than 5 percent with baggings made wholly or in part of sisal; a negligible number were covered with baggings made wholly or in part of cotton.

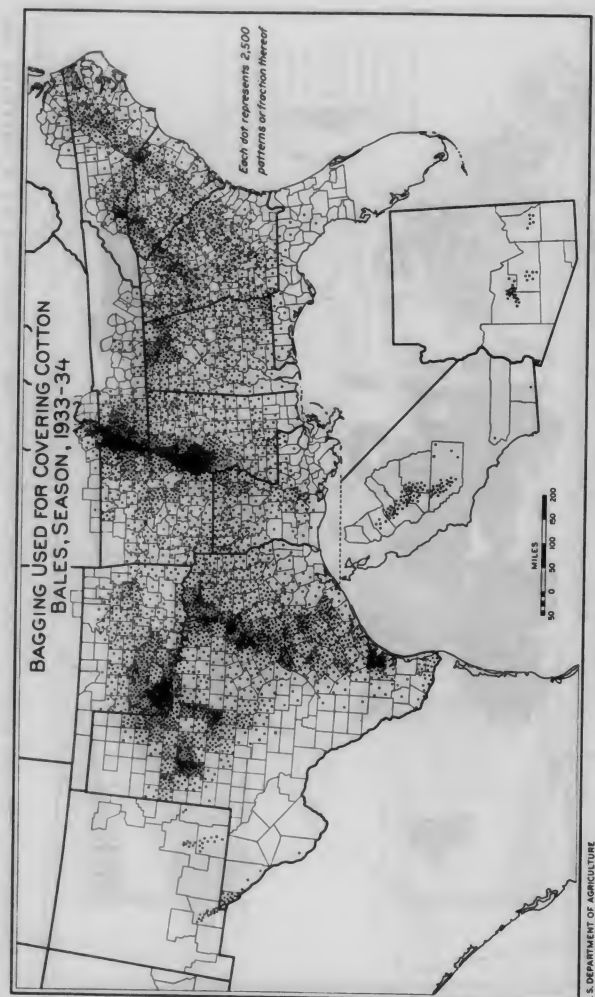
The type of bagging used depends somewhat upon regional customs and situations. New and re-woven jute baggings found their most important use as a covering for cotton bales in the central and western parts of the cotton-producing areas of the United States. The southeastern and central States of the Cotton Belt were the principal users of sugar-bag cloth. The use of second-hand and miscellaneous types of bagging was confined chiefly to the Southeast. Baggings made wholly or in part of sisal were used to a limited extent throughout practically the entire Cotton Belt.

The 1933-34 data relative to types of bagging used for covering cotton bales when compared with data for previous seasons indicate (1) a continuation of the slightly downward trend in the use of new and re-woven jute baggings, (2) an exception to the steadily increasing use of sugar-bag cloth of the previous 20-year period, and (3) a slight reversal from the previous declining use of second-hand baggings. There is a tendency to increase the use of second-hand or other low-cost types of bagging when cotton prices are low.

The reported objection on the part of domestic and foreign spinners to receiving cotton covered with sisal baggings was the basis for special deductions by cotton buyers for bales carrying baggings of these types. These deductions, made by buyers at the time of making payment for the cotton, ostensibly were designed to cover the cost of stripping and re-covering the bales with other types of bagging as well as incidental handling charges. The application of these deductions early in the season resulted in the discontinuance of the use of sisal baggings by many ginners.

Costs to growers for the bagging and ties used to cover their bales of cotton were materially lower in 1933-34 than in earlier seasons, the average cost being \$1.02 per pattern in 1933-34 as compared with \$1.55 in 1929-30 and \$1.35 in 1930-31. Costs were materially lower in those States where second-hand materials were extensively used than in States using larger proportions of new materials.

In those States in which an inclusive charge for ginning and wrapping was assessed on the basis of a flat rate per bale, the average weight of the bales was materially less than in other States.



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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FIG. 2927

FIGURE 1.— THE RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF THE VARIOUS COTTON-PRODUCING AREAS OF THE UNITED STATES AS USERS OF BAGGING FOR COVERING COTTON BALES IS DEPENDENT UPON THE NUMBER OF BALES GINNED IN EACH INSTANCE. WHEN USING FIGURES 2 TO 8, INCLUSIVE, REFERENCE TO THIS MAP WILL GIVE A CLEAR IDEA OF THE RELATIVE QUANTITIES OF ALL TYPES OF BAGGING USED IN A GIVEN AREA.

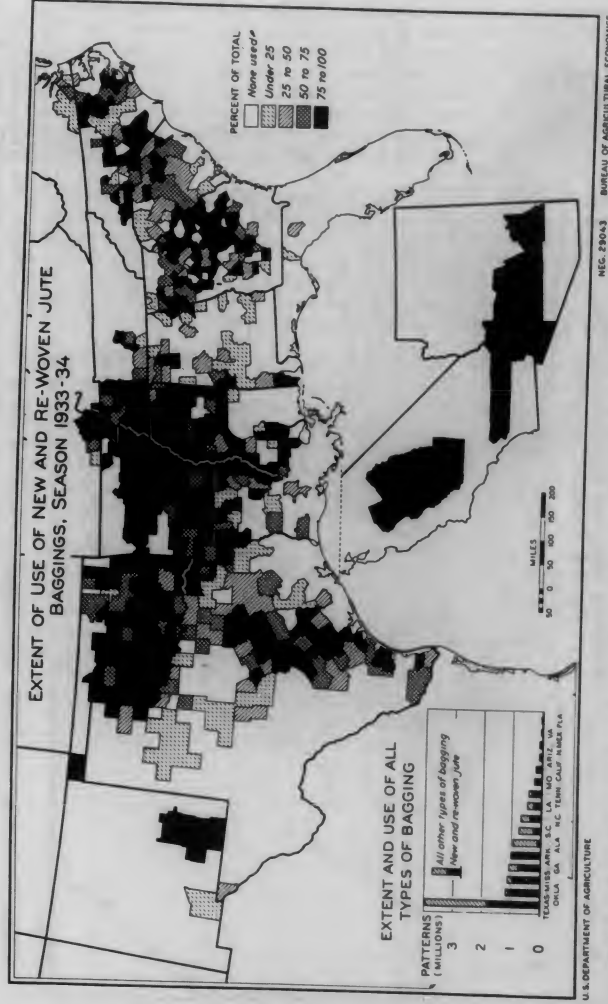


FIGURE 2.- NEW AND RE-WOVEN JUTE BAGGINGS ARE USED EXTENSIVELY AS A COVERING FOR COTTON BALES IN THE CENTRAL AND WESTERN PARTS OF THE COTTON-PRODUCING AREAS OF THE UNITED STATES.

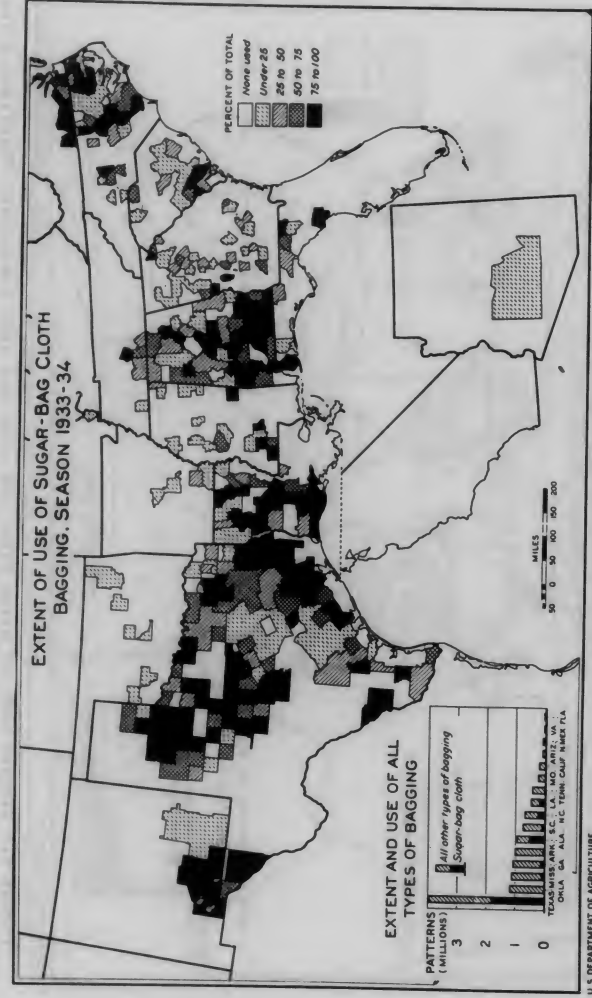


FIGURE 3.- THE SOUTHEASTERN AND CENTRAL STATES OF THE COTTON BELT ARE THE PRINCIPAL USERS OF SUGAR-BAG CLOTH AS A COVERING FOR COTTON BALES.

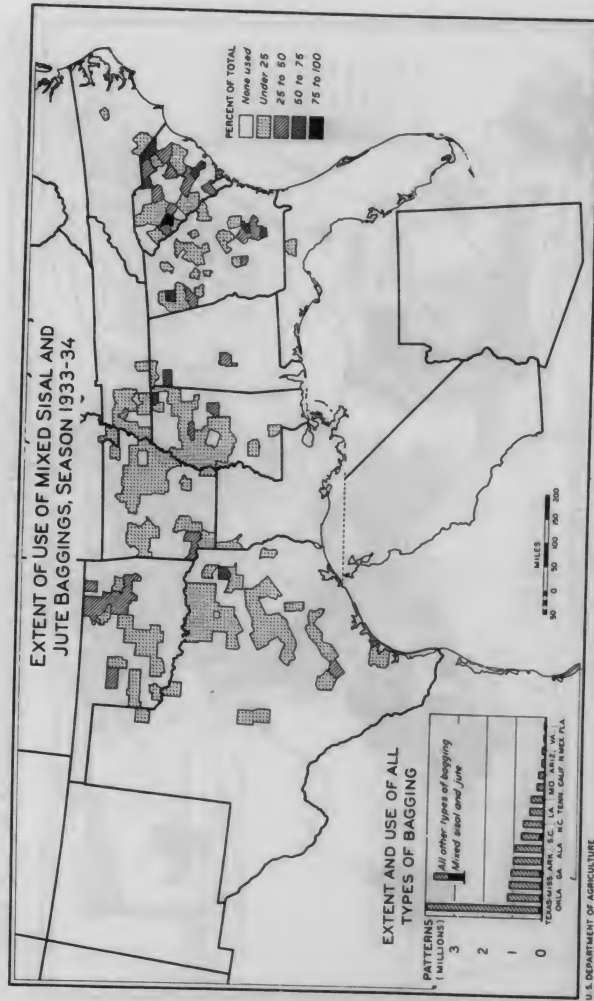


FIGURE 4.— BAGGING MADE OF MIXED SISAL AND JUTE WAS USED THROUGHOUT PRACTICALLY THE ENTIRE COTTON BELT DURING THE SEASON 1933-34.

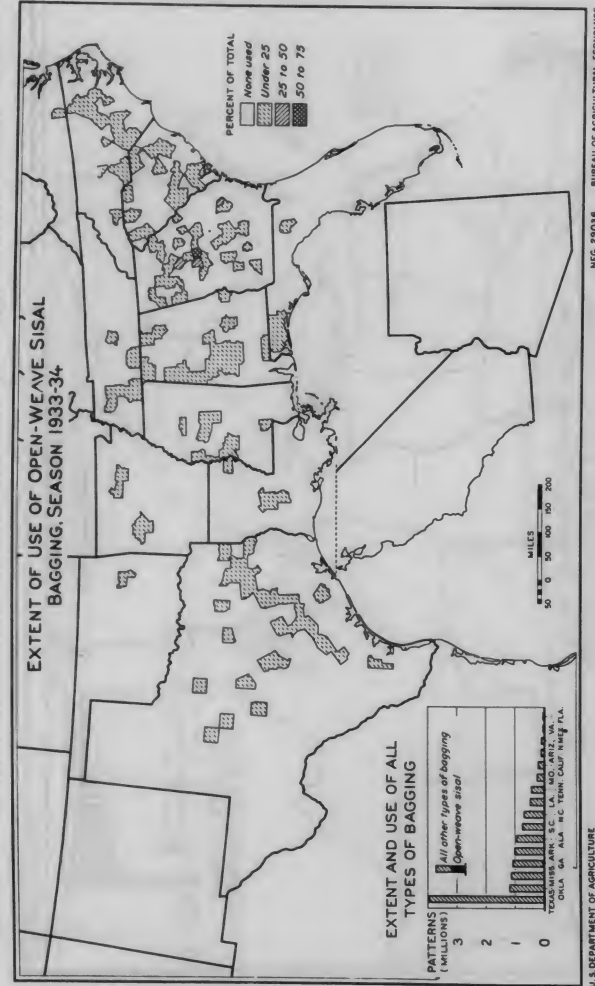


FIGURE 5.— OPEN-WEAVE BAGGING MADE WHOLLY FROM SISAL WAS DISTRIBUTED AND USED THROUGHOUT PRACTICALLY THE ENTIRE COTTON BELT DURING THE SEASON 1933-34.

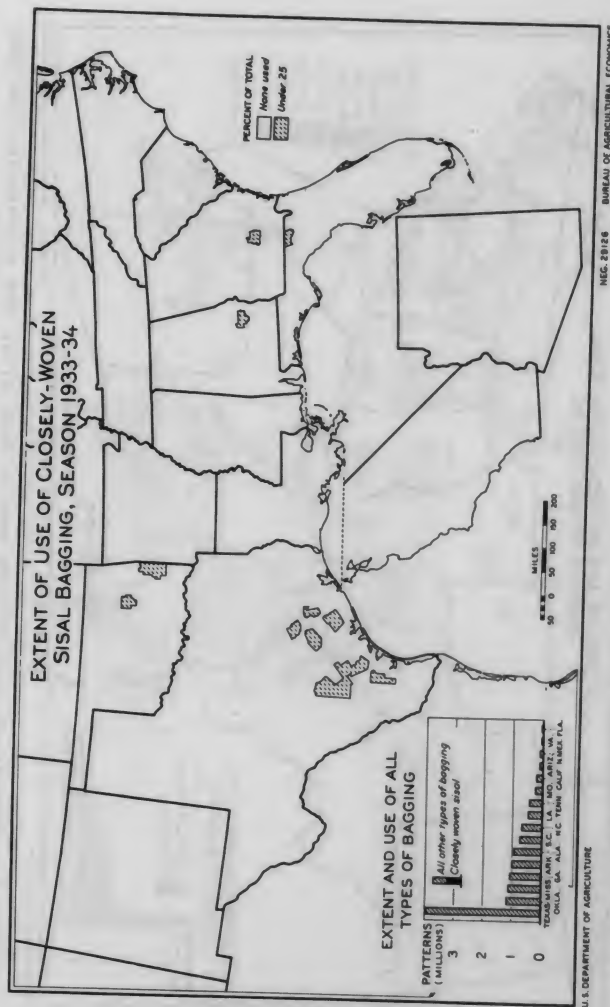


FIGURE 6.- CLOSELY-WOVEN SISAL BAGGING WAS USED TO A VERY LIMITED EXTENT IN WIDELY SCATTERED COTTON-PRODUCING COUNTIES.

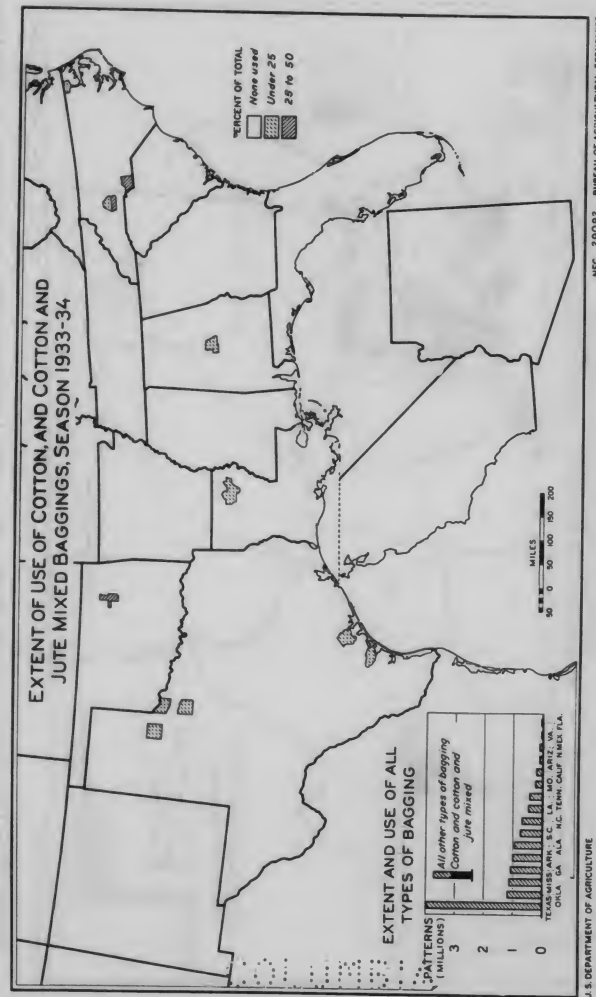


FIGURE 7.- BAGGINGS MADE OF COTTON AND OF COTTON AND JUTE MIXED WERE USED IN ONLY A FEW COUNTIES DURING THE SEASON 1933-34 AND ONLY TO A MINOR EXTENT IN THOSE COUNTIES.

FIGURE 8.- THE USE OF SECOND-HAND AND MISCELLANEOUS TYPES OF BAGGING IS CONFINED CHIEFLY TO THE SOUTHEAST.

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